

## **Susceptibility To And Complications Of Influenza And Pneumonia For Persons With Diabetes**

- People with diabetes are about three times more likely to die with complications of influenza (flu) and pneumonia than people without diabetes.
- The risk of hospitalization increases when additional risk factors exist, such as the presence of cardiovascular disease, renal disease and being more than 65 years old, which is the case for many people with diabetes.
- Currently, 10,000 to 30,000 people with diabetes die each year with complications of the flu and pneumonia.
- Death rates among people with diabetes increase by 5 to 15 percent during flu epidemics.
- People with diabetes are six times more likely to be hospitalized with influenza during flu epidemics.
- According to 1997 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) results, only half of adults with diabetes reported getting immunized against flu and only a third of them reported ever getting immunized against pneumococcal disease, the cause of the most common form of severe pneumonia.
- About 125,000 adults are hospitalized with pneumococcal pneumonia each year, and 10,000 people from it die annually.
- Influenza, pneumonia and hepatitis B infections kill 60,000 people each year.
- Of these infections, pneumococcal pneumonia has the highest mortality rate, yet only a third of people with diabetes have ever been vaccinated with a pneumonia shot, leaving a huge majority unprotected against pneumococcal pneumonia.